

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3682

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T PARIS 25559

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG UN CB LA

SUBJECT: KHMER IN 29TH UNGA: LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 233885; (B) PARIS 25407; (C) VIENTIANE

8060

1. I CALLED ON SOUVANNA OCTOBER 29. AFTER EXCHANGE OF REMARKS ON HIS HEALTH AND PLANS (SEPTTEL), I RAISED THE KHMER PROBLEM BEFORE UNGA. SOUVANNA SAID THAT KHMER PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET HAD VISITED HIM AND GIVEN HIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. HE AGREED WITH LONG BORET THAT THE TEXT WAS BALANCED AND WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANYONE, AND THAT IT SET FORTH A CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, THE PATH FOLLOWED BY THE LAO. SOUVANNA SAID THAT WHEN HE GETS TO VIENTIANE AND HAS A CHANCE TO CONSULT HIS MINISTERS, HE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO KHAMPHAN PANYA TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. HE THOUGHT THAT INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT BE SENT AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 2 OR 3, A DELAY WHICH SHOULD NOT BE CRUCIAL.

2. SOUVANNA SAID THAT IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR HIM TO SUPPORT SIHANOUK IN ANY WAY. SIHANOUK HAD GROSSLY INSULTED HIM, "DRAGGED HIM THROUGH THE MUD," AND

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SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

3. SOUVANNA SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE PREPARATIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS IF AND WHEN THE UNGA SHOULD ADOPT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GRUNK WOULD NOT TALK WITH LON NOL. WHEN I ASKED WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS INTERLOCUTOR ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES HE SUGGESTED CHENG HENG. HE THEN ADDED THAT LON NOL MIGHT GO ABROAD FOR TREATMENT FOR HIS HEALTH, AS SOUVANNA HAS HIMSELF DONE. DURING THIS PERIOD SOMEONE ACCEPTABLE COULD BE ACTING HEAD OF THE GKR. SOUVANNA THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND INTERLOCUTORS ON THE OTHER SIDE. HE KNEW SIHANOUK WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO TALK; HE WISHED PERSONAL VENGEANCE EVEN IF IT MEANT THE SACRIFICE OF HIS COUNTRY. SOME OF THE HARDLINERS SUCH AS IENG SARY WOULD ALSO BE OPPOSED TO ANY TALKS, BUT SOUVANNA THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE MODERATES AMONG THE GRUNK WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK, SOME SUCH AS KHIEU SAMPHAN. SOUVANNA SAID THAT THIS WAS ALSO THE VIEW OF SON SANN--IMPLYING THAT A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SON SANN HERE IN PARIS MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED HIS VIEWS ON CAMBODIA.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS AT PERSUADING HIM SEND INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS, SOUVANNA WAS VERY DEFINITE ABOUT NOT SENDING ANY INSTRUCTIONS ON KHMER ISSUE UNTIL AFTER HE GETS TO VIENTIANE. SOUVANNA SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT RESOLUTION AS IT STANDS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT LON NOL HAS TO BE ONE OF THE SPOKESMEN. HE SEEMED FAIRLY DEFINITE THAT, GIVEN THE CURRENT TEXT, THE PGNU INSTRUCTIONS FROM VIENTIANE WOULD BE TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. THIS POSITION TOGETHER WITH SOUVANNA'S ANIMOSITY TOWARD SIHANOUK INDICATE THAT EVEN IN THE VIENTIANE CONTEXT SOUVANNA MAY REPEAT MAY BE PREPARED TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS FOR KHAMPHAN TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND EVEN VOTE IN FAVOR OF ITS PRIORITY OVER RESOLUTION FAVORING GRUNK.
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